



TRAFFIC ALERT

VirginiaDOT.org

RELEASE: IMMEDIATE
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I-81 BLASTING OPERATIONS CANCELED FOR AUGUST 5 IN ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY

STAUNTON – Blasting operations have been canceled in Rockbridge County along Interstate 81 on Aug. 5. Blasting was originally scheduled to occur around 1 p.m. near mile marker 197.6 and near the Route 712 bridge.

Blasting will occur on Aug. 10 and Aug. 12, at 1 pm. The blasting locations will be on I-81 around mile marker 197.7 and the Route 712 bridge. Signs are posted in this area. Both northbound and southbound lanes will have a rolling mobile lane closure.

Nighttime single lane closures will occur on August 5 from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. Single lane closures will also occur on August 9 to 12, 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. This lane closure will be in the northbound right lane from mile marker 200 to 202.5. Barrier installation will be performed during these times.

The lane closures and blasting are part of the Interstate 81 truck climbing lane project in Rockbridge County. The work zone is along the northbound lanes from mile marker 195.6 to 202.5, which is just north of Lexington. Blasting days will change weekly depending on project progress. Both northbound and southbound lanes will have a rolling mobile lane closure. Traffic will be slowed down so the blast area is clear of traffic during the actual blast period. Traffic will immediately resume through the area once conditions are deemed safe by crews at the site. Blasting operations are estimated to continue through November.

The I-81 truck climbing lane project valued at \$74.2 million was awarded by Commonwealth Transportation Board on Feb. 5, 2009 to W. C. English Inc. of Lynchburg. Completion is scheduled for fall 2012.

The VDOT Staunton District serves Frederick, Shenandoah, Clarke, Warren, Page, Rockingham, Augusta, Highland, Rockbridge, Alleghany and Bath counties.

Traffic alerts and traveler information can be obtained by dialing 511. In areas where 511 is unavailable, dial 1-866-MY511VA (866-695-1182) (TTY/TDD users, call 711). Traffic alerts and traveler information also are available at 511Virginia.org.

Highway safety is everyone's responsibility. Virginia's highway safety partnership — the Virginia Department of Transportation, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles and Virginia State Police — challenges you to help prevent highway fatalities. Buckle up. Avoid distractions. Share the road. Drive drug- and alcohol-free. Obey speed limits. For more information on the Highway Safety Challenge and things you can do to avoid becoming Virginia's next traffic fatality, visit www.safeVAhighways.org.

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